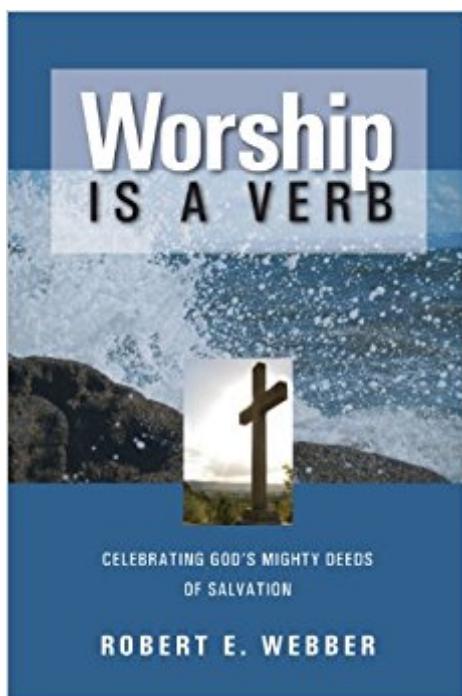


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# Worship Is A Verb: Celebrating God's Mighty Deeds Of Salvation



## **Synopsis**

Worship. It isn't an entertaining showcase for a talented soprano or a lecture on textual criticism or a pleasant weekly reunion of friends and family. Instead, true worship is a joyous celebration of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And as we actively turn our hearts toward God in earnest praise of God's great works, God in turn speaks to us and blesses us with a healing and renewing touch. In this life-changing and dynamic book, Robert Webber declares that worship is not "something done to us or for us, but by us." It is the most exhaustive demonstration of our faith and the most intimate form of relationship we can have with our Savior. Complete with a guide for group of personal study, "Worship Is a Verb" will show you how to leave the dull confines of the pew and enter the courts of the Living God.

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## **Customer Reviews**

Worship. It isn't an entertaining showcase for a talented soprano or a lecture on textual criticism or a pleasant weekly reunion of friends and family. Instead, true worship is a joyous celebration of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And, as we actively turn our hearts toward God in earnest praise of God's great works, God in turn speaks to us and blesses us with a healing and renewing touch. In this life-changing and dynamic book, Robert Webber declares that worship is not "something done to us or for us, but by us". It is the most exhaustive demonstration of our faith and the most intimate form of relationship we can have with our Savior. Complete with a guide for group or personal study, Worship Is a Verb will show you how to leave the dull confines of the pew and

enter the courts of the Living God.

Dr. Robert Webber, ThD, (1933-2007) was recognized by pastors, denominational leaders, scholars and lay people as one of the foremost authorities on worship renewal. He conducted workshops for almost every major denomination in North America through the Institute in Worship Studies, which he founded in 1995. He authored over 40 books on worship and the Church, including "The Complete Library of Christian Worship."

thank you am really enjoying this book.

This wonderful book is one of the most popular written by this respected author and professor. I have given copies to two pastors and both were thrilled to receive it as they had read excerpts on line and were familiar with the authors works.

Wheaton's Professor Robert E. Webber challenges us to rediscover and reemphasize worship, rooting it in the ancient liturgical wisdom of the Church. His presentation prompted me to re-read Webber's *Worship Is a Verb* (Waco: Word Books, c. 1985), a book designed "primarily as a study guide and tool for the implementation of worship renewal" (p. 8). As the title suggests, Webber wants Christians to become participants in, not observers of, worship services. Too much of our public worship, he thinks, focuses on the pastor and his sermon. When pastors do everything--making announcements, reading Scripture, praying the pastoral prayer, preaching the sermon--the people become spectators. (Or, worse yet: fans!) One of my students, who plans to enter the ministry, recently wrote a thoughtful essay, reflecting on his position paper on ministerial ethics. He asked how pastors avoid becoming "idols" in the minds of their people. (For many of us, I responded, there's no problem: we fail so regularly in the pulpit that no one's tempted to idolize us!) Yet, as I thought about it, there is a certain irony to the Protestant pulpit: having banished the crucifix and images from church, we often seek to install a "star" behind the pulpit! Everything in the Sunday services, as well as the weekly business routines of the institution, must focus on and revolve around the "senior pastor." So I think Webber's rightfully concerned. To really worship God in His holiness, entering into the mystery of His presence, involves us in the "liturgy" (i.e. the "work") of confession, prayer, praise, communion. And above all it celebrates Jesus Christ. Given the principle that "worship celebrates Christ," Webber sets forth "this rule of thumb for worship: Worship tells and

acts out the Christ-event. In this sense, the order of worship comes from above, not below." Worship should reflect the God who has spoken and incarnated himself. "Therefore, the twofold focus of worship is the Word (the Bible as the symbol of God speaking) and the Table (bread and wine as the symbol of God acting to save us)" (p. 49). This pattern, amply documented, comes from the earliest practices of the Christian Church. As ancient believers assembled together, they first prepared themselves for worship through hymns, invocations, confessions. Then they listened to the Word of God as biblical passages were read and expounded. (Webber rebukes evangelicals for reading so little Scripture and preaching so topically! Such allows too many pastors to regularly ride favorite hobby-horses to death!) After the Word came the Table. Wherever believers worshipped they came to the Table and consumed its bread and wine. Webber has "found the Table, like the Word, to be a satisfying means of nourishment and spiritual growth. Far from becoming routine, it has become like an intimate relationship. For me, Communion is a personal experience of Jesus Christ" (58). Beyond building a case for more liturgical-style worship, Webber gives suggestions as to how it can be implemented in evangelical congregations. The basic worship pattern allows for temporary creative variations, including more extensive use of the arts. Ways to elicit responses from the people--amens, alleluias, etc.--may be pre-programmed but effective in encouraging everyone to participate in the service. He also encourages churches to seriously consider the traditional liturgical year's calendar of celebrations and scheduled readings. Rather than celebrate "secular" events, such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, and the Fourth of July, Webber calls us to recover the authentically Christian calendar, with its focus on Advent, Easter, and Pentecost. Webber's personal journey from Fundamentalism (including a stint at Bob Jones University) to Anglicanism explains some of his enthusiasm for liturgy and worship. Yet anyone familiar with Church history knows he makes a bona fide point: to sustain the faith, on both a personal and corporate level, demands a style of worship which endures beyond those passing enthusiasms or powerful preachers which may momentarily energize a congregation. There's wisdom to traditional ways, to tested and proven Body-life principles. So too there's wisdom to be gleaned from the pages of this book.

I really like this book because it gives you all the information you need regarding why we worship. We become participants in our church service, not just spectators. I rated it 4 stars because it is informative. I would recommend this book for anyone who would like to be more involved in their

worship service.

Really the best book I have read on worship

The title says it all. Now, if we can only get it right whom to worship!

Robert Webber's book has already become a classic in worship circles. While most writers on the topic tend to focus on superficial issues like hymns vs. choruses, Webber engages the questions What is Christian worship? and How should it be practiced in the church? His eight principles can be applied beneficially in any style or setting of worship. If you're really interested in renewing your personal worship or your church's worship and not just changing style, read and think on this book. It will be well worth the effort.

This is Webber's classic book on worship which impacted a generation of church leaders. The points made are right on target.

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